

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A method of imparting drought resistance to plants comprising:  
applying a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or  
5 polypeptide in a non-infectious form to a plant under conditions effective to impart  
drought resistance.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the hypersensitive  
response elicitor protein or polypeptide is derived from *Erwinia*, *Pseudomonas*,  
10 *Xanthomonas*, or *Phytophthora*.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the hypersensitive  
response elicitor protein or polypeptide is derived from *Erwinia amylovora*, *Erwinia*  
*carotovora*, *Erwinia chrysanthemi*, and *Erwinia stewartii*.  
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4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the hypersensitive  
response elicitor protein or polypeptide is derived from *Pseudomonas syringae* or  
*Pseudomonas solanacearum*.
- 20 5. A method according to claim 2, wherein the hypersensitive  
response elicitor protein or polypeptide is derived from a *Xanthomonas* species.
6. A method according to claim 2, wherein the hypersensitive  
response elicitor protein or polypeptide is derived from a *Phytophthora* species.  
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7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the plant is selected  
from the group consisting of rice, wheat, barley, rye, cotton, sunflower, peanut, corn,  
potato, sweet potato, bean pea, chicory, lettuce, endive, cabbage, cauliflower,  
broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot,  
30 squash, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, melon, strawberry, grape,  
raspberry, pineapple, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, and sugarcane.

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